CLAIMS IN AMENDMENT

[Received on July 22, 2003 by the International Office; new claim 18 was added; the originally filed claim 16 was amended; the originally filed claims 18 to 23 were amended into the amended claims 19 to 24; no other claims were changed (2 pages)]

10. The liquid matrix according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a combination of alginate and pectin.

11. The liquid matrix according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the water-soluble polymer is gellan gum.

12. The liquid matrix according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the water-soluble polymer is combination of gellan gum and pectin.

13. The liquid matrix according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the viscosity of the liquid matrix is about 1.0×10^{-1} Pa·s or less.

14. An oral liquid preparation characterized in comprising the liquid matrix according to any one of claims 1 to 13 and

medicine.

15. The oral liquid preparation according to claim 14, wherein the medicine has anti-*Helicobacter pylori* activity.

16. (Amended) The oral liquid preparation according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the medicine is at least one member selected from the group consisting of penicillin antibiotics, macrolide antibiotics, tetracycline antibiotics, cepham antibiotics, and pyridonecarboxylic acid synthetic antibacterial agents and metronidazole.

17. The oral liquid preparation according to claim 16, wherein the medicine is at least one member selected from the group consisting of amoxicillin, clarithromycin, roxithromycin, minocycline hydrochloride, cephaclor, cephalexin, ofloxacin, tosufloxacin tosylate, and levofloxacin.

18. (Added) The oral liquid preparation according to claim 16, wherein the medicine is metronidazole.

19. (Amended) The oral liquid preparation according to any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein the liquid matrix is gelled in the stomach thereby exhibiting sustained release of the

medicine.

20. (Amended) The oral liquid preparation according to claim 14, wherein the medicine has effect of promoting protection factor.

21. (Amended) The oral liquid preparation according to claim 20, wherein the medicine having therapeutic effect on stomach ulcer or duodenal ulcer is of protection factor promoting type.

22. (Amended) The oral liquid preparation according to claim 21, wherein the protection factor promoting type medicine having a therapeutic effect on stomach ulcer or duodenal ulcer is prostaglandin.

23. (Amended) The oral liquid preparation according to any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein the liquid matrix is gelled in the stomach thereby exhibiting sustained release of the medicine.

24. (Amended) A method characterized in utilizing an aqueous solution of a water-soluble polymer gelling under acidic conditions as a component in a sustained-release oral liquid preparation.